

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the heading on page 1, line 4 with the following:

Description BACKGROUND

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 6-11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention relates to a hinge for connecting a hood, especially an engine hood, to a vehicle body ~~in accordance with the precharacterizing clause of claim 1~~, and to an airbag for opening a hood connected by a hinge to a vehicle body ~~in accordance with the precharacterizing clause of claim 18~~.

Please insert at page 1, lines 13-24 and before the paragraph starting on page 1, line 26 the following:

SUMMARY

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 30-31 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The object is achieved by a hinge ~~having the features of claim 1 and having the features of claim 2~~.

Please insert the following after the paragraph on page 2, lines 9-19 and before the paragraph starting on page 2, line 21:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 21-33 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~Claims 1 to 17 describe various~~ Various options are described for releasing the hood, especially the engine hood, from the vehicle body. These principles include, among others, the use of an explosive screw (pyrotechnically), the use of shear pins and the use of an airbag for releasing the hinge. In the case of using shear pins with an airbag being used to raise the engine hood, it is expedient to introduce the airbag forces as close to the hinge as possible in order to enable an efficient and low-vibration shearing off of the shear pins. The expansion of the airbag can be used to exert tensile or shearing forces on a connecting element connecting the two hinge parts, in particular a bolt, this bolt then being disengaged from at least one of the two other hinge parts by the forces exerted.